

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent applications and to include the published abstract.

An early and favorable action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

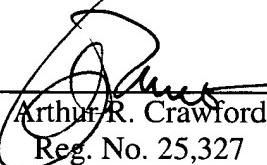
Please grant any extension(s) of time deemed necessary for entry of this communication.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper filed hereafter) to Deposit Account No. **14-1140**.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Arthur R. Crawford
Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:ewm
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100